

REMARKS

Claims 10, 12, and 15-17 are currently pending in this application. In response to the Office Action dated June 26, 2008, claims 10 and 12 are amended, and claims 6-9 and 11 are cancelled without prejudice. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 15-17 and the indication that claims 10 and 12 are directed to allowable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the following comments is respectfully solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 7 of the Office Action, claims 10 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have adopted Examiner's suggestion, and claims 10 and 12 are each rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 10 and 12 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 6-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,883,544 (hereinafter "So") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,077 (hereinafter "Miyazaki"). Applicants have canceled claims 6-9 and 11 without prejudice. Thus, the rejection is moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

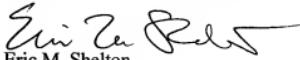
Conclusion

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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